

Thirty.

That is the number of representatives who need to change their votes to override President Bush's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program reauthorization. Only thirty votes stand in the way of providing healthcare to 10 million uninsured children over the next four years. The health of millions of children hangs in the balance – failure to reauthorize the program delays important funding for state programs. Children's health should not have to depend on [stop-gap funding](#) as the President and Republican House leadership play politics, children should not be [attacked for speaking out](#) for programs that have saved their families from financial ruin, and [kids](#) and their [doctors](#) should not have to beg Congress for help.

I have been pressing those who voted with the President before to instead stand with the millions of children and hard-working American families unable to afford health insurance. The President and the Republican House Leadership have engaged in [outrageous exaggeration](#) and flat-out misdirection during this debate and the American people must let them know that they will not stand for further delay on this important legislation.

UPDATE: Questions about coverage for wealthy families

Some of you have expressed concerns that the bill would allow coverage for wealthy families. Richard E. Geno wrote that he was concerned that "the plan would have provided coverage to children whose parents were earning as much as \$83,000 per year, which are hardly considered "poor" people."

As Republican Senator Charles Grassley noted, "There's nothing in our bill that would do that. [[The President's](#)] understanding of the bill was wrong."

You can learn more about the [President Bush's misleading claim](#) in this editorial.